

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 8, with the following amended paragraph:

The defect data detected by the image processing module 29 is sent to an input/output module ~~29b~~ via a controller ~~29a~~. The controller ~~29a~~ is a conventional computer system that provides overall control over the defect inspection apparatus and overseas communication with external systems. The input/output module ~~29b~~ is a conventional computer system that performs functions such as displaying inspection information and overseeing the interface that receives instructions from the operator. Regarding its relationship with the auto-focus system, an auto-focus offset ~~29e~~ entered by the operator into the input/output module ~~29b~~ is transferred to the controller ~~29a~~, and the controller ~~29a~~ sends instructions to the Z stage controller 13. Also, the auto-focus offset ~~29e~~ is recorded as an inspection conditions file and transferred by the controller ~~29a~~ via a conventionally known network ~~29e~~ to be saved in an external database ~~29d~~. The operations of the auto-focus offset ~~29e~~ will be described later.

Please replace the fourth full paragraph on page 13 with the following amended paragraph:

(1) The auto-focus offset ~~29e~~ is initialized via the input/output module ~~29b~~ ~~from Fig. 1~~ (the value of this auto-focus offset ~~29e~~ offset will vary by an amount corresponding to the thickness of the transparent film 2 depending on whether the focus is set to the surface 14 of the transparent film 2 or the focus is set to the lower-layer surface 10 of the transparent film 2).

Please replace the paragraph that begins on page 13 and ends on page 14 with the following amended paragraph:

(3) Step (2) is performed multiple times with vertical adjustments made to the initial value of the auto-focus offset ~~29e~~. Based on this, the optimal conditions (most defects and least false detections) are determined. These conditions are recorded by the controller ~~29a~~ ~~from Fig. 1~~ into a separate inspection conditions determination file, which is recorded in the external database ~~29d~~ via the network ~~29e~~.

Please replace the second full paragraph on page 14 with the following amended paragraph:

The determined inspection conditions are stored in a file and saved by the controller 29a from Fig. 1 into the external database 29d via the network 29e. The saved inspection conditions are read and used by other inspection apparatuses on the network. To provide quick implementation of this process for determining conditions, it is necessary for the optimal auto-focus offset to be determined quickly.